

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are pending in this patent application. Claim 8 has been amended to add additional species. Support is provided by, for example, Examples 99 to 127. Support for new claims 20 and 21 is provided by, for example, claim 1. Support for new claims 22 to 33 is provided by, for example, pages 32 to 34.

Applicants note, with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that claims 4, 7, and 8 define allowable subject matter.

Claims 10-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Although the Office Action acknowledges that Applicants' disclosure is enabling for treatment of the recited diseases, the claims have been rejected due to alleged uncertainty as to whether practice of the claimed methods would completely cure the recited diseases. Although Applicants question whether the evidence of record supports this allegation, they have amended claims 10-19, as suggested in the Office Action, by deleting reference to disease inhibition. This amendment is made solely to advance prosecution, and is not believed to substantively alter the claims' scope.

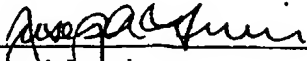
Claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 9-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite with respect to interrelationship among certain "R" groups. Applicants submit, however, that the nature of such interrelationship is explicitly stated. Claim 1, for example, states that R_2 can be one of the recited groups (*e.g.*, hydrogen) or can be "taken together with either R_{p+1} or R_{p-1} linked with an -alkylene-, or -X-alkylene- group," *i.e.*, that R_2 can be linked to R_{p+1} through an alkylene group or an -X-alkylene group, or can be linked to R_{p-1} through an alkylene group or an -X-alkylene group. The identity of R_{p+1} and R_{p-1} , in turn, is dependent upon variable "p," which is stated to be 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, or 14. Thus, for example, when p is 2, R_2 can be linked to R_3 (*i.e.* R_{p+1}) through an alkylene group or an -X-alkylene group, or to R_1 (*i.e.*, R_{p-1}) through an alkylene group or an -X-alkylene group. A similar analysis applies to "R" groups that are defined by reference to variable "q" (*i.e.*, R_{q+1} and R_{q-1}). Since the claims explicitly state the identity of these groups, there is no indefiniteness. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection under §112, second paragraph, be reconsidered and withdrawn. *In re Mercier*, 185 U.S.P.Q. 774

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PATENT

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and an early notice of allowance are respectfully requested.

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